

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A printer driver installed on a host computer includes an activation module that causes the host computer's modem to generate communications signals. In a status store, the driver maintains information about the states of certain printer functions. The driver also includes a module for generating a user interface that causes graphical elements to be displayed. By selecting graphical elements, a user can both update the data store's data and cause the activation module to generate a communications link with a remote computer use the modem.